Amendments to the Claims:

This Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application. No new matter has been added.

Listing of Claims:

1-25. (canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) An alkaline storage battery, comprising:

a positive electrode plate comprising a conductive support and an active material paste supported by the support, the active material paste containing nickel hydroxide and cobalt compounds, and

an alkaline electrolyte,

wherein the cobalt compounds comprise a hardly-soluble cobalt compound having a solubility of not more than 1 μg/g in a potassium hydroxide aqueous solution with a specific gravity of 1.3 and an easily-soluble cobalt compound having a solubility in a range of 100 μg/g to 10000 μg/g in the potassium hydroxide solution with a specific gravity of 1.3, and

the easily-soluble cobalt compound is at least one selected from cobalt metal, cobalt hydroxide, cobalt monoxide, and cobalt sulfate.

27. (Currently Amended) The alkaline storage battery according to claim 26, wherein said hardly-soluble cobalt compounds are obtained by mixing a cobalt hydroxide powder and a sodium hydroxide powder, and applying a heat treatment to the same in an atmosphere containing oxygen.

28. (Currently Amended) The alkaline storage battery according to claim 26, wherein said hardly-soluble cobalt compounds are obtained by adding a sodium hydroxide aqueous solution and an aqueous solution containing an oxidizing agent to a cobalt hydroxide powder.

29. (Previously Presented) The alkaline storage battery according to claim 28, wherein the oxidizing agent comprises at least one selected from the group consisting of hydrogen peroxide, bromine, chlorine, sodium hypochlorite, and persulfate.

30. (Currently Amended) The alkaline storage battery according to claim 26, wherein said hardly-soluble cobalt compounds are obtained by baking a cobalt hydroxide powder in an atmosphere containing oxygen at a temperature in the range of 90°C to 140°C.

31. (Previously Presented) The alkaline storage battery according to claim 27, wherein the cobalt hydroxide powder is made of a solid solution of cobalt hydroxide containing at least one element selected from nickel, zinc, iron, manganese, aluminum, calcium, magnesium, strontium, barium, lithium, sodium, yttrium, and ytterbium.

32. (Previously Presented) The alkaline storage battery according to claim 28, wherein the cobalt hydroxide powder is made of a solid solution of cobalt hydroxide containing at least one element selected from nickel, zinc, iron, manganese, aluminum, calcium, magnesium, strontium, barium, lithium, sodium, yttrium, and ytterbium.

33. (canceled)